

Shaker Church Family Tailors' Shop
E. side of Shaker Road, 1 mi. S. of
State Rt. 2A, approx. 2 mi. W. of
Worcester-Middlesex County line
Harvard
Worcester County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-805

HABS
MASS
14-HARV
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

SHAKER CHURCH FAMILY TAILORS' SHOP

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Location: East side of Shaker Road, 1 mile south of State Rt. 2A, approximately 2 miles west of Worcester-Middlesex County line, Harvard, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Present Owner: Erhart and Ruth Muller

Present Occupant: Seymour Stewart (tenant)

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: This is reputed to have been the tailoring shop of the Shakers. When acquired by the present owner, there was a small brick oven or stove with a metal top located under the stairs and adjacent to a small door leading to the living room. It was said that this was for the purpose of reaching through to put an iron on the stove.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Prior to 1831; probably 1798-1808.
2. Architect, builder and suppliers: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Harvard Shakers; the Shakers sold the property to Fiske Warren of Harvard, in 1918, who incorporated it into his single-tax Tahanto Enclave; it was then sold to Dr. Benjamin Woodbury; upon Dr. Woodbury's death, his widow sold the property to Erhart and Ruth Muller.
4. Alterations and additions: The building was originally located about 100 yards south of its present location, as seen in the plan of the Harvard First Family delineated by George Kendall in July, 1836, and was moved to its present site between 1838 and 1870.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

None known.

C. Sources of Information:

The building is shown, in its original location, in a plan

SHAKER CHURCH FAMILY TAILORS' SHOP
HABS No. MASS-805 (Page 2)

of the Harvard First Family delineated by George Kendall in July, 1836; the original is in the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts and HABS has a photocopy in the files at the Library of Congress. The building is apparently indicated as a shop on a Harvard town map of 1831; the map is now located in the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts.

Prepared by Bayard Underwood, AIA
Shakerton Foundation, Inc.
July 3, 1963